

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 25-36 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

25. (new) A bonded article, comprising:
a first substrate;
a second substrate; and
a bonding layer interposed between said first and second substrates to bond said first and second substrates to one another, said bonding layer comprising a composite oxide comprising at least one alkali metal element and at least one transition metal element.
26. (new) The bonded article according to claim 25, wherein said at least one alkali metal element comprises lithium.
27. (new) The bonded article according to claim 25, wherein said composite oxide is selected from the group consisting of lithium niobate, lithium tantalate, lithium niobate-lithium tantalate solid solution, lithium potassium niobate, lithium potassium tantalate and lithium potassium niobate-lithium potassium tantalate solid solution.
28. (new) The bonded article according to claim 26, wherein said composite oxide is selected from the group consisting of lithium niobate, lithium tantalate, lithium niobate-lithium tantalate solid solution, lithium potassium niobate, lithium potassium tantalate and lithium potassium niobate-lithium potassium tantalate solid solution.
29. (new) The bonded article according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said first substrate and said second substrate comprises a single crystal.

30. (new) The bonded article according to claim 26, wherein at least one of said first substrate and said second substrate comprises a single crystal.
31. (new) The bonded article according to claim 29, wherein said single crystal comprises a ferroelectric electro-optic single crystal.
32. (new) The bonded article according to claim 31, wherein said single crystal comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of lithium niobate, lithium tantalate, lithium niobate-lithium tantalate solid solution, lithium potassium niobate, lithium potassium tantalate, lithium potassium niobate-lithium potassium tantalate solid solution, KTP, glass, silicon, GaAs, and quartz.
33. (new) The bonded article according to claim 30, wherein said single crystal comprises a ferroelectric electro-optic single crystal.
34. (new) The bonded article according to claim 33, wherein said single crystal comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of lithium niobate, lithium tantalate, lithium niobate-lithium tantalate solid solution, lithium potassium niobate, lithium potassium tantalate, lithium potassium niobate-lithium potassium tantalate solid solution, KTP, glass, silicon, GaAs, and quartz.
35. (new) The bonded article according claim 25, wherein the bonded article comprises an optical member.
36. (new) The bonded article according to claim 26, wherein the bonded article comprises an optical member.